

CULTURE SHOCK IN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
(Qualitative Descriptive Study about Culture Shock for Foreign Students
from Palestine and Thailand countries in Muhammadiyah University of
Surakarta)

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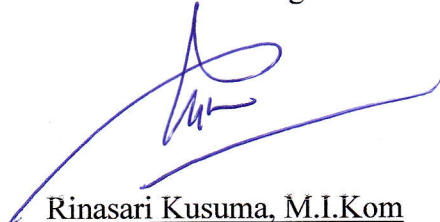
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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the communication is obstacles and the stages of culture shock that faced by the Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta students who are from Palestine and Thailand. The method uses qualitative descriptive by using technical data collection with semi-structural of technique interview, and to check the data validity triangulation with source. Results of research that the students from Palestine and Thailand countries didn't know about living in Indonesia especially in UMS's environment before they came to Indonesia, after living in Surakarta, they can understand the local culture from time by time. The obstacles of communication and the stages of the culture shock in faced by foreign students that are from them self and society. Most of foreign students could minimize the culture shock by using social support as friends, family or community, but some foreign students the influence of ethnic differences and the time in overcoming culture shock. Where as in the implementation of handling culture shock that can adapt quickly and others take a long time.

Key words: Culture shock, social support and ethnic.

A. Introduction

In the globalization era, the relationship between societies will be easy and widespread. Based on the desire to people know and to learn on biodiversity of the nation to others that allows for interaction between cultures. The importance to forge intercultural communication with all the lining the community in the world, so are created communication between cultures that in harmony. One of the efforts that can be done is in the area of education. The cooperation among one state with the other, ranging from student exchange between countries, the procurement scholarship, to build cooperation between institutions education among one State with the others as is done by University Muhammadiyah Surakarta.

Study in other countries is a great opportunity enjoyable because it possible to learn various cultures. However, into a new culture also can bring a frustrated, emotional stress, the problem communication and failure in achieving this task. Someone moved from the environment which can be then living in environment and the people who previously was not known, so it can be pressure and a major obstacle that could lead to a feeling uncomfortable. Even this like this could be faced by foreign students not only to be experienced in but also any new settled in new environment that is still foreign and have yet to be thought previously. In Liliweri (2011: 8) interaction is a relationship between action that might not be action was changed

and in means together by individuals with one another. The interaction in cross-cultural communication can be influenced by the difference culture, then surely will experience the difference in interact so that it will bring out of misunderstanding and feedback that do not be expected, but this cultural differences are expected not be made as an obstacle for the interaction in a culture that is a little different. When differences are contrary to cross-cultural gave birth to a different, it can be prejudiced attitudes social, political prejudice, economic prejudice inter-cultural or often called with culture shock. The attitude appeared in inter-cultural stereotypes (disfigure another culture, social distance selective in choosing (associate with another

culture, the attitude discrimination (eliminating another culture).

Researchers will described about the influence culture shock experienced by foreign students who were in UMS's, researchers took the sample or from foreign students who are coming from Palestine and Thailand. Based on background research problems above, the formulation of problems that will be examined is: How culture shock experienced by students UMS's who is of Palestine and Thailand countries, and how to deal with the foreign students faced by shock UMS's.

B. Theoretical Foundation

1. Culture Shock

When individual interact with new culture and various will have problems in various discomfort

psychologically and physically. Experience was called with culture shock. In. Samovar et al. (2010: 475) culture shock is a mental that come from transition occurs when one left environment that he knew to come and live in a new environmental and found that pattern of behavior that used to be ineffective if it is applied in a new environmental. The culture shock also influenced from the communication barriers between cultures such as language, physical, emotional experience, this motivation,, perception, non verbal communication and competition.

2. The Culture shock Stages

In culture shock that experienced by some steps that

is called U-curve in Samovar et al. (2010: 477) explained several stages of culture shock: The optimistic phase, the problem cultural, recovery phase, adjustment phase. But some of the things that, to live in two cultures, someone will need to adapt again with its cultural passed away, and bring out the idea of W curve, the combination of 2 U-curves.

C. Research method

location or more imbued in Islamic boarding school students KH Mas Mansur, the source data taken from foreign students at University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta, to campus or their respective faculties foreign students, we examined to add additional data. The first phase is needed time 2 days of the letter to

the observation breakdown research. Observation and documentation needs time of 1 to 2 weeks to observe activities and the environment. In particular use of the semi-structure interview. In this research is using qualitative research. Research method use descriptive qualitative research. Validity Technical data with a technical triangulation source observation participant, and an interview semi-structure. Data Analysis techniques using interactive based on the steps have been made by Miles and Huberman on (2007; 15-20) is a collection of data, reducing data, The data, and draw conclusions/verification.

D. Discussion

Of this research students from Palestine and Thailand who studied at the universitas muhammadiyah

Surakarta in choosing courses based on Directors education institution he studied early and senior high school and elect themselves. Education institution In recommendation from he was able to get schooling for free of charge to lecture at University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta is one of them in Indonesia. While students that based on their own accord he chose Indonesia is based on alternative choices for study at the first objective was to go to university students in other places are not met there are also because he wanted to get experience in Indonesia. In other words all source that interview all to get permission and Directors of the parents so that is able to study in Indonesia.

Foreign Students in Indonesia based on three days there are some

who have studied in Indonesia, especially in UMS's during more than four years, was influenced high barriers culture shock suffered more decreases and began to be able to accept Indonesia culture there is a 2-year which is located in UMS's and 1 years in UMS's including many who stay in school students UMS's to make it easier for them to overcome the problems that were in self-difficulties to interact like, and comfort, difficulty learning at give Islamic boarding school students UMS's good facilities and infrastructure to make it easier for foreign students. There is a part that left Islamic boarding school students UMS's and preferred to live in a place like other lodging house or the so-called *indekost*. The reason why students choose *indekost* as the desire for

more freely in undergoing all mining activities without the rule that is at the school students and the need for socialization to the communities and personal wish.

Have a culture in which religious values will be thick, such as in associate, foreign students have culture that is maintaining good relations between each other, have a high level of interaction to another student but college students from Palestine also limit their interaction with women, guarding the women. To simply greet and looked at each other they were forbidden. Freedom in Indonesia is different from their thinking before entering in Indonesia. While other culture is the time and character of the Indonesia, in Palestine punctuality is very important, they are very disciplined in the time.

Also, a character who is firm, indifferent, honest and have the courage to different with character of the foreign who likes to joke, lips and gentleness, friendly and hard working and appreciate that his name money. Students from the character that Palestian people have indifferent, here they can be easily adapt because of his importunity brave and indifferent. Indifferent attitude that made them do not need to understand local culture them more overcome dissatisfaction with their inability asked with a friend, a teacher. They more often spent their time for browsing or the internet.

Students from Thailand the level of culture shock is less than the students from Palestine country. They have culture not far different, so they can adapt easily the culture

in Indonesia. The weather in Thailand country same as Indonesian weather, only several problems like food, transportation which make them got obstacles. In Thailand having comfortable and almost societies in Thailand use public transportation to make easily the activity in every day.

Many people in Thailand country have Buddhist religion, so the culture in Thailand is dominated by religion culture. But, foreign student who come from Thailand are most of them are moslem, so it will make them easily to adapt the culture in UMS's. The difficulty of language does not become big obstacle for them, they explain Indonesia language easier to be learnt faster than English language because Indonesian language is almost with Malay

language learnt by them in their country. The Indonesian people who help each other that makes them to adapt faster. The obstacle of food can be overcome with changing it with meat, seafood, or noodle.

Foreign students in the facing culture shock use different way, students in Thailand to reduce the culture shock to adapt to local culture, they interact with local communities, friends, fellows, lecturers to society at large.

They tend to be more open and willing to learn and to accept new culture that they had never come across, students from Palestine country, the lack of interaction with local communities is to make them happier together with other foreign students who are from the country as well as part of Middle East.

They interact if local communities or local students do communication ahead of time. They more interact non-verbal to overcome their difficulties in communicating with the local Indonesian in UMS's.

Some students from Indonesia that is closed to informants giving easiness in facing culture shock as language and study which all books and the way the lecture conveys in class in using Indonesian language which they did not learn before. They overcome the difficulty of learn besides they ask with their friend they do read more and browse through internet. Electronic media is as place to overcome the boredom or culture shock faced. The support from family they got through skype, mobile, facebook, and other electronic

communication/chatting ways. In obstacle was faced, they explained that was able to overcome from time to time. Several informants adapt the culture without losing his own culture.

E. Conclusion

Based on analysis of data and discussion with title Culture Shock In Intercultural Communication In Foreign Students Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta From Palestine And Thailand is Students from Palestine they have more to communicate both fluently non verbal with local communities, problems in a system in their teaching UMS's and experience. The students who came from Thailand facing culture shock, they have level of culture shock lower than students are from Palestine

country. In the steps of culture shock, the students are more to overcome them quickly.

Based on conclusion above, the advice was addressed for further researcher to be able to approach case study to result deeply with understanding social condition in the country they want, based on their personal experience.

For students of UMS's from Palestine and Thailand to be more often interacting with the students, a lecturer in UMS's and local communities. With social interactions that in doing so it will make it easier for foreign students to more easily adapt and adjust the culture that is in UMS's.

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